

Improving Information Systems

1. Improve real-time earthquake monitoring and distribution of data.
2. Develop seismic information systems for probabilistic ground shaking hazard mapping from post-earthquake investigations.
3. Improve techniques for assembling geotechnical data in user-friendly electronic data files.

Theme II: Earthquake Risk Assessment and Loss Estimation

An overview of (1) processes, models, and methods for estimating the potential impact of an earthquake on a specific area in terms of deaths, injuries, damage to structures and lifelines, and direct and indirect economic losses; and (2) methods and processes for quickly determining the nature, areal extent, and magnitude of damage after an earthquake and for identifying those areas most seriously affected.

Chair

- Dr. William A. Anderson, Section Head, Hazard Mitigation, National Science Foundation

Speakers

- Dr. Robert V. Whitman, Professor of Civil Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Dr. Tsuneo Katayama, Director-General, National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention, Science and Technology Agency
- Dr. Kenzo Toki, Professor of Kyoto University
- Ms. Catherine H. Light, Deputy Associate Director for Response and Recovery Directorate, FEMA
- Mr. Ichirou Nagao, Specialist for Earthquake Disaster Management, Earthquake Disaster Management Division, Japan Fire and Disaster Management Agency

Policy Issues

1. Is the completeness, accuracy, timeliness, and usefulness of an earthquake loss estimate sufficiently good to justify its use in preparedness and disaster response planning and as a basis for justifying mitigation actions?
2. Should we use loss estimates for decisions concerning mitigation actions?